

NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR

June 19, 2014

GOV. MSG. NO. 1203

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim,
President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives Twenty-Seventh State Legislature State Capitol, Room 431 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kim, Speaker Souki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 19, 2014, the following bill was signed into law:

HB1716

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION, CONTROL, OUTREACH, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING ACT 102 (14)

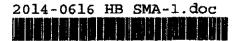
NEIL ABERCROMBIE Governor, State of Hawaii

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION, CONTROL, OUTREACH, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING.

## BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

- 1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the invasion of
- 2 Hawaii by insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and
- 3 other pests is the single greatest threat to Hawaii's economy
- 4 and natural environment and to the health and lifestyle of
- 5 Hawaii's people. The legislature further finds that immediate
- 6 action is needed to mitigate the threats and impacts of invasive
- 7 species.
- 8 Pests already cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the
- 9 extinction of native species, the destruction of native forests,
- 10 and the spread of disease, but many more harmful pests now
- 11 threaten to invade Hawaii and wreak further damage. Even one
- 12 new pest, like the brown tree snake or the red imported fire
- 13 ant, could forever change the character of our islands. For
- 14 example, a 2010 study by Shwiff, et al., found that if brown
- 15 tree snakes were introduced to Hawaii, the cost to the State in
- 16 lost tourism, health costs, and damage to power infrastructure
- 17 could total \$2,140,000,000 per year. Stopping the influx of new



## H.B. NO. 1716

- 1 pests and containing their spread is essential to Hawaii's
- 2 current and future well-being.
- 3 The legislature previously recognized the importance of
- 4 invasive species as an issue in Hawaii through Act 85, Session
- 5 Laws of Hawaii 2003, which resulted in the creation of the
- 6 interagency Hawaii invasive species council. The Hawaii
- 7 invasive species council, mandated by chapter 194, Hawaii
- 8 Revised Statutes, is created for the special purpose of
- 9 providing policy level direction, coordination, and planning
- 10 among agencies in Hawaii. The Hawaii invasive species council
- 11 has met this mandate, in part, by disbursing funds on an annual
- 12 basis to support critical invasive species prevention, control,
- 13 outreach, research, and planning projects that enhance or
- 14 supplement existing departmental projects.
- 15 A 2002 study by the legislative reference bureau titled
- 16 "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species"
- 17 estimated the annual cost to address invasive species issues in
- 18 Hawaii at \$50,000,000. The original goal for an annual Hawaii
- 19 invasive species council budget was \$5,000,000 from the general
- 20 fund, though the initial approved appropriation in fiscal year
- 21 2005 was \$2,000,000. From fiscal years 2010-2013, no general
- 22 funds were provided. In fiscal year 2014, \$750,000 was provided



- 1 from the general fund. A large increase in appropriated funds
- 2 is necessary to maintain what capacity has been built over the
- 3 years for invasive species mitigation in Hawaii and to
- 4 effectively protect Hawaii's natural resources.
- 5 Governor Neil Abercrombie's "A New Day in Hawaii" plan
- 6 calls for the stewardship of the natural resources upon which
- 7 our survival, economy, and quality of life depend. Priority
- 8 actions of the plan include managing invasive species and
- 9 increasing Hawaii's ability to withstand impacts from climate
- 10 change.
- 11 The purpose of this Act is to provide funds to the
- 12 department of land and natural resources, as administrative host
- 13 of the Hawaii invasive species council, for the immediate
- 14 protection of Hawaii's environment and economy and the health
- 15 and lifestyle of its people through the support of invasive
- 16 species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning.
- 17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
- 18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much
- 19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to be
- 20 expended on projects undertaken in accordance with the Hawaii
- 21 invasive species council, including but not limited to invasive
- 22 species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning.



- 1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
- 2 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

JAN 1 6 2014

APPROVED this <sup>19</sup> day of JUN , 2014

COVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAMAN

**GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII**